

S. General

53

4th December, 1959.

COCOM Document 3717.15/1

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

ON

ITEM 1715 - BORON

25th and 30th November, 1959

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Docs. Nos. 3700.2 and 6, 3717.00/1 and W.P. 1715/1 - 3.

1. All delegations agreed to a GERMAN proposal, amended by the UNITED STATES Delegation, to redefine sub-item (a) as follows:

"(a) Boron minerals, including but not limited to Colemanite, Pandermite, Rasorite and Ulexite, crude and refined."

2. All delegations agreed to a UNITED KINGDOM text, based on a GERMAN proposal and amended slightly by the UNITED STATES Delegation, redefining sub-item (d)(3) as follows:

"(d)(3) Other boron compounds (excluding metal borates, n.e.s., and perborates), and mixtures, containing 10% or more of boron in combined and/or elemental (metallic) form."

3. The ITALIAN Delegation suggested that a Note be added to this item, reading as follows:

"Governments may authorise the export to Sino-Soviet Bloc countries of small quantities of sodium borate and/or boric acid (to a value not exceeding \$ 1,000) when the competent authorities are convinced that these products are intended for civilian use (enamelling, glassware, ceramics, etc.). These exports should be reported in the monthly statistical returns."

They further explained that if such exports attained a certain level, this Note might be re-examined at the time of the next List Review.

4. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegation was in favour of such relaxation, and felt that this Note should apply to all the boron substances mentioned in Item 1715. They also felt that the list of civilian applications was incomplete, and cited the wide variety of uses involved in the case of certain exceptional exports to Poland.

5. The UNITED STATES Delegation did not believe that their Government would be able to give favourable consideration to a broadening of the Italian proposal as suggested by the United Kingdom Delegation. They noted that such revision of present controls could cause difficulty not only for the United States but also for cooperating third countries. They pointed out the necessity of a careful examination of any proposal to permit exports of this highly strategic commodity to the Bloc, which was suffering from an acute shortage. The United States authorities would oppose any exports of this commodity to the

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

COCOM Document 3717.15/1

Soviet Union or Communist China. No conclusions should be drawn from the authorisation of certain boron exports to Poland, in view of the special treatment applied to that country. Moreover if the scope of the Italian proposal were widened, it would be even more difficult to apply.

6. The GERMAN Delegation shared the view of the United Kingdom Delegation. They pointed out that such a Note was hardly necessary since no exception request had been refused.

7. The ITALIAN Delegation stated their willingness to broaden the scope of their Note if necessary.

8. CONCLUSION : The COMMITTEE agreed to redefine Item 1715 as follows:

"Boron, the following:

- (a) Boron minerals, including but not limited to Colemanite, Pandermite, Rasorite and Ulexite, crude and refined;
- (b) Boron element (metal), all forms including grains and powder;
- (c) Boron carbide and boron nitride;
- (d) Boron compounds and mixtures, n.e.s., the following:
 - (1) Boric acids and salts (sodium, potassium, ammonium, magnesium and calcium) and esters of boric acids, crude or refined, not including perborates;
 - (2) Boric oxide, boron trifluoride and its complexes, boron trichloride and its complexes and fluoborates;
 - (3) Other boron compounds (excluding metal borates, n.e.s., and perborates), and mixtures, containing 10% or more of boron in combined and/or elemental (metallic) form.

The COMMITTEE further agreed to refer the Italian Note, together with the comments made, to Member Governments, and to come back to the matter during the second round if there were any further views.

SPG.

~~SECRET~~